



## Harold Jay Whitaker

May 23, 1934 - April 14, 2022

Harold Jay Whitaker, 87, of Fort Gibson, was born May 23, 1934, to Harold and Lucille (Pasley) Whitaker and entered eternal rest surrounded by his family Thursday, April 14, 2022. He grew up in Muskogee, graduated from Muskogee High School, and later joined the United States Army. He was a Paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne. After he was discharged from the Army, he went to NSU and received his bachelor's degree in Teaching, became a Real Estate Broker and also was a Business Owner of Leisure Pools in Muskogee. He was a lifelong member of Boulevard Christian Church.

Jay loved John Wayne, had a knife collection, he was a Scuba Diver Instructor and loved scuba diving, snow skiing, traveling, fishing, working in the yard with his wife, spending time and making memories with family and friends. He was always on the go making his rounds either to help someone, bring you something or just say hi. But most of all, his greatest joy besides being called PaPa was just being with his wife, kids, grandkids and great grandson.

Jay leaves behind to cherish his memories his wife, Arlene Whitaker of the home; daughter, Lara Steele and her husband Shawn; son, Chris Keeton and his wife Stephanie; two granddaughters, Nikita Steele, and Skylar Keeton and her fiancé Nate; two grandsons, Darius Steele, and Logan Keeton and his fiancé Emily; one great grandson, Zander Keeton; and several nieces and nephews, extended family and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, Harold's family request memorial contributions in his name to Kiamichi Mountains Christian Mission, 37529 Indian Trail, Honobia, OK

74549.

Harold's celebration of life will be held 10:30AM Saturday, April 30, 2022, at Boulevard Christian Church in Muskogee with Pastor Steve Moss officiating. The family of Harold Jay Whitaker has entrusted his care, cremation and service to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com](http://clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Road  
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **30**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Boulevard Christian Church  
1700 West Shawnee  
Muskogee, OK 74401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Harold Jay Whitaker*

January 29, 2023 at 12:59 PM

YW

*I am saddened to hear Jay passed away. He was always positive in the go. Always helping someone and enjoyable to be around. Prayers for his wife and family.*

**Yvonne Pendley Wehrle** - January 31, 2023 at 08:34 PM

DD

“ *Prayers of strength to Arlene and family.*



**Dee Dunn** - April 28, 2022 at 04:22 PM

DG

“ *We will always remember Jay and his jokes,peppermints, we love and miss him.*

**Dorothy & Gene** - April 21, 2022 at 11:35 AM

AB

“ *Jay, you will be missed more than words can describe. Between the random pop in's at the office to say hello, to surprising us with snacks. Your stories and the conversations we've had will be held near and dear to all of our hearts. Keep wearing socks with sandals with your shorts, even in the winter.*

**Austine Blake** - April 19, 2022 at 04:09 PM

GF

“ I will always remember how he would sneak up behind you at church and scare you and then we would laugh and laugh. He was so caring and friendly to everyone. He was a beautiful person and his wife is also.

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**Gail Fox** - April 19, 2022 at 02:37 PM

PB

“ Jay was a very sweet and kind man. I too remember him always wearing his shorts. There could be a snowstorm outside, but he would always walk in with shorts on. I worked as a cashier at Tractor Supply for years and it was a pleasure to wait on him because there was always a smile when he came in and always left us with a smile. My heart goes out to his family for their great loss.

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**Paula Butler** - April 19, 2022 at 02:19 PM

JS

“ I will forever remember Jay for the kind, thoughtful man he was and will always see him wearing his shorts, to show off his pretty legs, his socks and sandals. You will be forever missed.

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**Janie Slader** - April 19, 2022 at 10:43 AM

GP

Jay was one our favorite people and we loved him.

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**Gayle and Gene Paxton** - April 29, 2022 at 08:03 PM

JH

“ James Harris lit a candle in memory of Harold Jay Whitaker



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**James Harris** - April 19, 2022 at 08:26 AM

PP

“ Jay loved playing volleyball and my daughter and I loved playing at the Y with him. Such great and fun memories with Jay! We will all have fun together again.

*With loving memories, Pam Perdue*

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**Pam Perdue** - April 19, 2022 at 06:54 AM

SK

“ Stephanie Keeton lit a candle in memory of Harold Jay Whitaker



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**Stephanie Keeton** - April 18, 2022 at 11:14 PM

SK

“ Jay was my father in law and the best one I could have ever asked for. He was so proud of his children ,then when his grandchildren and great grandchild came along he was overjoyed with pride he always said one of his greatest joy was being called papa I love you Jay and not a day will go by that we will not think about you and will miss you dearly.

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**Stephanie Keeton** - April 18, 2022 at 11:14 PM

MB

*Jay, I have known you for years you never changed every time I saw you , you were still Jay the same as yesterday! Yes you would always slip up on me at Church and scare me to death lol I think you Loved doing that with people you were a mess I know that ... , You always made me laugh at something!!!! Lol..*

*One time I saw you at Lowe's setting in your car by yourself, and I noticed that you were just talking in the air , there was no phone in your ear , I thought O no Uncle Jay has finally lost his mind lol, I finally got your attention and you had an ear bud in your ear and just laughed when you saw me looking at you with concern lol , I knew nothing about those phones or ear buds at that time but you sure looked funny just talking away to no one I could see !! Lol..*

*I always enjoyed running into you and see what you were gonna do next 😊*

*You will surely be missed by me and lots of people, your in a place that is Beautiful and talking with Jesus, your a Lucky Man hope to see you soon 🙏🙏🙏🙏*

*Love,  
Mitzie Abel Burk*

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**Mitzie Burk** - April 22, 2022 at 02:54 AM

BH

“*Jay was a very good man, happy and very friendly. Always a pleasure to see him. Our sincere condolences to the family.*”

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**Berry and Beverly Harris** - April 18, 2022 at 08:08 PM